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ROULETTE FARM GROUP, SLAVE QUARTERS
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg Vicinity
Washington County
Maryland

HABS NO. MD-85-B

HABS
MD,
22-ANTI.V,
1-B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

ADDENDUM TO:
ROULETTE FARM GROUP, SPRINGHOUSE-KITCHEN
(Roulette Farm Group, Slave Quarters)
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg vicinity
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
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1849 C Street NW
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Addendum to ROULETTE FARM GROUP, SPRINGHOUSE-KITCHEN (Roulette Farm Group, Slave Quarters)

HABS No. MD-85-B

- Location: Antietam National Battlefield, approximately 600 yards north of the intersection of the Roulette Farm Lane and the "Sunken Road."
- The Springhouse-Kitchen is situated on the Roulette Farm and is part of a cluster of buildings that includes a dwelling house, barn, smokehouse, storehouse, and bake oven. The structure is located at the base of a slight knoll and faces east overlooking a man-made pond and gently rolling agricultural fields.
- USGS Keedysville Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates; E: 264,499.83 N: 4,373,155.80 Projection UTM NAD 83
Zone 18N
- Present Owner and Occupant: U. S. National Park Service (Antietam National Battlefield).
- Present Use: The structure is not in use at this time and is maintained in accordance with sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Significance: The Springhouse-Kitchen is a well preserved example of late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century vernacular architecture that was once common on farmsteads throughout the region. The structure was a prominent landmark during the battle of Antietam and was used as a place of refuge by soldiers of both armies.
- Historian: Keven Walker, Antietam National Battlefield, 2005.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Unknown.

In 1751, the property on which the structure sits was purchased by William Anderson for £53. A decade later Anderson sold the same property for £235, a substantial increase in just ten years. The most probable explanation for this escalation in value is that Anderson made considerable improvements to the property and that these

improvements included a dwelling house and outbuildings. It is possible that the original part of the structure, the springhouse, was constructed during Anderson's tenure.

John Reynolds purchased the property from Anderson in 1761 and continued to improve the property over the next twenty years. A tax assessment in 1783, for example, lists Reynolds's property as worth just over £470 with the value of his improvements tallying to £50. This is a substantial figure when compared with other assessments in the Sharpsburg Hundred in that year. If the springhouse was not already constructed at the time of Reynolds's purchase, it is probable that he had it erected sometime before his death in 1784.

The second part of the structure, what is presumed to be a kitchen and a half-story loft above, was added to the original springhouse sometime after the initial outbuilding was erected and before about 1820. Several elements in the construction of the kitchen and loft accretion point to it having been built before ca. 1820; these include hand hewn and adz finished top plates and summer beam; mitered roofing rafters pegged together without a ridge board; cross cut flooring in broad irregular widths; and the use of hand wrought nails.

2. Architect: It is unlikely the outbuilding was architect designed, and none have been connected to the structure. The names of the designer-builders are not known either.

3. Original and subsequent owners: Reference is to the land records of Washington County, Maryland, held in the Washington County court house in Hagerstown, Maryland:

A: 212 acres, known as "Anderson's Delight"
1761 Deed, 1 July 1761 - William Anderson to John Reynolds. Liber G, Folio 83.

B: ½ of estate, including parts of "Anderson's Delight"
1784 Will of John Reynolds, 13 April 1784 - John Reynolds to Joseph Reynolds ½ of his estate. Will Books Liber A, Folio 91.

C: 262 acres, known as "Joe's Farm" and "Joe's Lot"
1804 Deed, 3 December 1804 – Joseph Reynolds to John Miller III. Liber P, Folio 916.

D: 179 ¼ acres
1821 Deed, 5 November 1821 – Heirs of John Miller III to John Miller IV. Liber FF 28, Folio 443.

E: 179 ¼ acres
1851 Deed, 5 December 1851 – Ann Miller (widow of John Miller IV) to William Roulette (husband of Margaret Ann Miller Roulette). Liber 6, Folio 394.

F: 179.5 + acres

1901 Deed, 20 December 1901 – Charles Biggs (attorney for heirs of William Roulette) to Benjamin Roulette. Liber 115, Folio 320.

G: 179.5 + acres

1947 Deed, 13 March 1947 – Elizabeth Roulette (widow of Benjamin Roulette) and the heirs of William Roulette to Ellsworth Roulette, Trustee. Liber 240, Folio 293.

H: 179.5 + acres

1947 Deed, 13 March 1947 – Ellsworth Roulette, Trustee to S. Patterson and Leoda Roulette. Liber 240, Folio 294.

I: 179.5 + acres

1956 Deed, 15 June 1956 - S. Patterson and Leoda Roulette to Howard and Virginia Miller. Liber 311, Folio 631.

J: 179.5 + acres

1986 Deed, 4 December 1986 - Howard and Virginia Miller to U.S. Government (scenic easement). Liber 311, Folio 631.

K: 179.5 + acres

1998 Deed, 3 September 1998 - Howard and Virginia Miller to U.S. Government (scenic easement). Liber 1437, Folio 210.

4. Original plans and construction: The structure was originally a single story, or story and a half, springhouse measuring about 16' - 4" x 16' - 4". It has been suggested that the building, as first constructed, had a pyramidal roof. The remnants of hewn beams set into the stone walls of this section of the building may contradict this assumption, however. Instead, the placement of these remnants suggests that they are what remain of floor joists from an original second floor or loft area and that they were sawed out and removed when the building was renovated in later years. The presence of a second story or loft above the single room of this portion would most likely mean that the springhouse, as built, had a gable roof. The original entrance remains that section's only portal. It is a westward facing opening in what would have been the southern end of the structure's west façade. The opening was framed by a wood jam and had a stone threshold. This entrance was completed with a wood plank door hung from the jam on what were probably strap hinges. A small hole in the base of the structure's west and east façades allowed water from a spring west of the structure to flow through a trough in the stone floor and out again into the small stream that runs north and east of the building. There is very little extant in the original section of the structure that would accurately and definitely determine its date of construction. Its vernacular stone construction was

commonly used for farm buildings in the area from the early settlement period until the mid-nineteenth century, a span of over 140 years.

5. Alterations and additions: The structure was drastically altered sometime before about 1820. At that time an addition was constructed on the springhouse's south gable end; the roof and second-story floor joists were removed and a new half story overlaid the entire edifice, uniting the original building with the new addition. The rafters of the new roof were constructed so as to extend beyond the top plate until intersecting with the floor joists of the second story which also extended beyond the stone wall of the structure's west façade. This allowed the roof to extend beyond the structure's stone wall along the entire length of the west façade creating a covered walk way and work space below. The addition was made of stone masonry; its east and west facades both were punctuated by one door and one window. A large utilitarian fireplace on the south gable end of the new addition suggests that it was constructed to accommodate activities requiring a large amount of water, such as cooking or washing. The covered area created by this addition along the building's west façade also indicates that the likely kitchen or washhouse addition was intended for use as work space.

The new half story above the springhouse and its addition was accessed by a flight of steeply pitched wood stairs that ascended from the first floor room of the new part of the building. The second floor was divided into two rooms by a board and batten partition. The stairway led to the southern room and from there a door in the partition allowed access to the northern room over what was the original springhouse. The knee walls and the gable ends of both rooms were plastered with a "brown coat" but only the southern room received a finish coat and white wash. The southern room also showed evidence of having been heated by a wood stove at some point as a hole for a stove pipe is clearly visible in the chimney flue.

At some point following the construction of the addition the second-floor partition wall was moved from the north side of the stair access to the south side. The stairs then ascended into the now larger north room and the southern room was accessible through the partition door. A hole in the floor of the southern room suggests that a stove was added at sometime to the room below and that the stove pipe ran through both the upper and lower rooms before entering the chimney flue on the second floor.

In 1939, a concrete floor was laid over the original stone floor of the springhouse room and over what may have been a dirt, stone, or board floor in the addition. Also during that period the west window in the second story of the structure's north gable end was enlarged and boxed in with a wood shoot that extends through the floor and into the springhouse room below. Sometime in the early-to-mid twentieth century, electricity was added to the building and primitive light fixtures were installed on both floors.

B. Historical Context

The property on which the Springhouse-Kitchen was constructed has been farmed continuously at least since it was purchased by William Anderson in 1751. Anderson was from the Virginia tidewater and, moreover, is listed in the land records of Frederick County, Maryland, as having been a farmer in Virginia. There is some documentary evidence that shows that Anderson was farming the property as early as 1739, twelve years before he purchased the land. John Reynolds, to whom he sold his property in 1761, was also a farmer. Reynolds moved his family to the property from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

The Reynolds family was prominent in the area and the sons of John Reynolds all served in the Continental army during the American Revolution. John Reynolds's oldest son, also named John, was killed by Native Americans while leading his family down the Ohio River. The elder Reynolds's remaining two sons each inherited a portion of his father's Washington County farm. Joseph Reynolds sold his portion of the property to John Miller III in 1804. Miller owned several large adjoining tracts and it is doubtful that he ever intended to live on the land that he purchased from Reynolds.

By the time of the 1840 census the property had passed from John Miller III to his son, John Miller IV. The census taken that year shows that John Miller IV owned three slaves. The second story of the Springhouse-Kitchen may have been used as quarters for these slaves and indeed slaves may have also, especially in later years as cooking practices changed, resided in the first floor of the springhouse addition. This could possibly account for the need for a wood stove in that room as well as the operating fireplace. One of the Miller family slaves was freed in 1859 and would remain on the farm as a paid servant for many years. Her name was Nancy Campbell (later changed to Camel) and the Springhouse-Kitchen structure may have served as her residence. Although there is some evidence to suggest that parts of the structure were at one time used for housing, there is no evidence of who those residence may have been or how long the structure was used for that purpose.

Upon the death of John Miller IV, The farm was sold to his sister's husband, William Roulette, and it was the Roulette family who owned the farm at the time of the battle of Antietam.

During the battle the Roulette farm was one of many on which heavy fighting took place. The battle occurred on 17 September 1862 and would prove to be the single bloodiest, one day battle in American history. The fighting began just before daybreak at a point about three quarters of a mile north of the roulette farm buildings. By just after eight o'clock that morning federal troops of French's Division, Sumner's 2nd Corps, were marching onto the Roulette property from the north. The troops were arrayed for battle; their lines stretching from the Mumma Orchard on the west to the fields east of the Roulette barn. They were moving south and in the direction of the Confederate position along a sunken road that forever after would be called "Bloody Lane."

Confederate skirmishers had taken up a position around the Roulette buildings and some were in and around the Springhouse-Kitchen itself. Charles Page, a veteran of the battle, wrote a history of his former regiment, the 114th Connecticut Infantry, in 1906. In it he states:

The springhouse of William Roulette was occupied by some belligerent sharpshooters who were captured by Company B, after which the company joined the regiment.

Soon the battle was raging about four hundred yards south of the Roulette buildings as federal troops fought to dislodge the Confederates from their defensive positions. As the fighting continued, the Roulette buildings became a place of refuge for the wounded and dying. Henry S. Stevens, Chaplain of the 114th Connecticut Infantry, wrote a “souvenir” book recording the events of a regimental reunion on the Roulette farm in 1891. In the book he recounts what he and others witnessed there on the day of the battle:

All day men who could not be carried further to the rear for want of ambulances were brought there and laid upon the grass or within the house, springhouse or barn . . .

Stevens wrote that on the day of the Reunion in 1891:

All wanted to see the famous springhouse, with its heavy walls that sheltered some of our badly wounded, where Lieut. Crosby and others were operated on and where some of our prisoners were kept for a time – also the rare spring, in its cavity, near.

Following the battle, the structure continued to be used, much as it had always been, for well into the twentieth century. It wasn't until a modern “milk house” was constructed near the barn in the late 1950s that the springhouse ceased being a place to keep the farm's dairy products cool. The kitchen section of the structure was used by the family of Howard Miller to butcher and prepare hogs and game until the property was sold to the United States Department of the Interior in 1998.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The Roulette Farm Group, Springhouse-Kitchen is a well preserved example of late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century vernacular architecture that was once common on farmsteads throughout the region. The structure is constructed of native limestone in a single pile configuration. Originally a single room springhouse,

an addition was attached to the structure's south gable end sometime before about 1820. The building retains its original character and the integrity of its features remains good.

2. Condition of fabric: The current condition of the Springhouse-Kitchen is fair. Lack of regular maintenance has begun to deteriorate the structure's woodwork. The building's walls are in need of repointing and the spring no longer runs through the structure's original section. Evidence of infestation by wasps, snakes, and rodents is apparent. Doors, windows, and shutters are in need of repair as they no longer function as originally intended. The interior of the structure has been preserved by an apparent history of sound roofing. There is no evidence of any water damage anywhere inside the building and most of the structure's original interior woodwork appears to be intact.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions: The Springhouse-Kitchen is a one and a half story, one room deep stone structure measuring approximately 34'-4" x 16'-4".

2. Foundations: The foundation of the structure is constructed of native limestone.

3. Walls: The walls are fashioned from the same type of limestone used in the foundation. The stone is laid in irregular courses and varies in size. The walls are approximately 20" thick.

4. Structural system, framing: The exterior stone walls of the Springhouse-Kitchen are load bearing and support the cross sawn floor joists and board flooring of the structure's second floor. Hewn log top plates run the length of the structure resting on the top course of the stone walls of the building's east and west facades. These top plates support the structure's roofing. Rafters are pegged together at their peak without a ridge-board and rest in notches in the top plates; the rafter tails extend about 8" beyond the structure's exterior walls. Shingle lath is nailed across the tops of the rafters and runs the length of the building with a corrugated metal roof nailed to the lath.

5. Porches, stoops: A cantilevered roof creates a covered walkway along the entire length of the structure's west façade. The walkway is created by the extension of the roofline on the west façade beyond the structure's gable end. The top end of the rafters for the cantilevered roof rest on the structure's top plate and are nailed to the rafter-tails of each of the main roofing rafters. The floor joists for the structure's second story extend approximately 5' beyond the structure's west wall to support these rafters. The bottom of the rafters for the cantilevered roof rest on a cross sawn timber which has been affixed to the floor joists with wood pegs.

6. Chimneys: The structure is heated by one chimneystack, which is an interior end chimney made of complex masonry. It is built of stone from the foundation to the just

below the peak of the roof, and from that point to the top the chimney, it is made of brick. The large fireplace with cooking irons located on the first floor has an inset, hand hewn, log mantle piece. A circular hole (now filled by a large coffee can) in the chimney on the structure's second story was used for the flu of a wood stove.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The structure has three exterior doorways, one on the east façade into the first story of the structure's north room, and two cut into the first story of the south room, one on the east façade and one on the west façade. All three doorways have board doors that appear to date to the construction of the building's addition.

b. Windows and shutters: Besides the doors, the fenestration consists of eight windows, seven of which are evident in the exterior. Each of the gable ends contains two four-light casement windows opening into the second story whereas two, badly damaged sash windows open into the first floor, south room. These are covered by board shutters. Two other sash windows are located - one each - in the east and west facades. The last window merely borrows light now; it is a small, unglazed opening or vent cut into the spring room at the structure's north gable end. Vertical wood bars are set into the opening.

8. Roof: A corrugated metal roof covers the building.

C. Description of Interior

1. Stairways: Three stone steps on the exterior of the building provide access to the springhead area and the spring room on the structure's ground floor. A steep, almost ladder like, set of stairs provides access to the structure's second story from the interior of the first-floor south room.

2. Flooring: The floor of the first story is concrete, while the flooring on the second story is made of random width, cross sawn boards each approximately 1" thick.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls of the building are finished with plaster applied directly to the stone and then whitewashed. There is no finish on the ceilings.

5. Openings: There is a doorway in the board partition wall between the two rooms of the structure's second floor. The opening is unframed. The door is made of boards and whitewashed.

6. Hardware: All the hardware in the building appears to be wrought iron with the exception of the door latches. The latches appear to have been added later and may be

cast. The exterior doors of the structure are hung using strap hinges, but the interior door on the structure's second floor is held in place by a set of three-knuckle hinges.

D. Site

The site in which the Springhouse-Kitchen is situated appears much as it has for the past two-hundred years. The structure sits along the gravel lane that leads to the Roulette farm buildings from the Sunken Road. It is very near the Roulette House and is part of a cluster of farm buildings which include a smokehouse, root cellar, bake-oven, and barn. A small stream flows around the building's north end and into a man-made pond a few yards to the east. There is no visual intrusion that would diminish the structure's historic integrity.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: There are no extant drawings known at this time.

B. Early views:

1. Alexander Gardner Photograph: This view of "The Roulette House" is a stereo view taken on 19 September 1862.
2. Tipton Photograph: This dates to the reunion of the 114th Conn. Vol. Infantry on 17 September 1891.
3. Unknown photographer: This photograph was taken sometime before the turn of the twentieth century.

C. Bibliography:

Washington County Land Records.

Washington County Will Books.

Everett, Jeff "Cultural Landscape Inventory, Roulette Farmstead, Antietam National Battlefield". Unpublished report, National Park Service, 2003.

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Page, Charles D. History of the Fourteenth Regiment, Connecticut Vol. Infantry. Meriden, Conn: The Horton Printing Co, 1906.

Stevens, H. T. "Souvenir of the 14th C.V. Excursion to Battlefields and Reunion at Antietam."
Unpublished history, 1891.

Wallace, Edith B. "Reclaiming Forgotten History". Ph. D. dissertation, Goucher College, 2003.

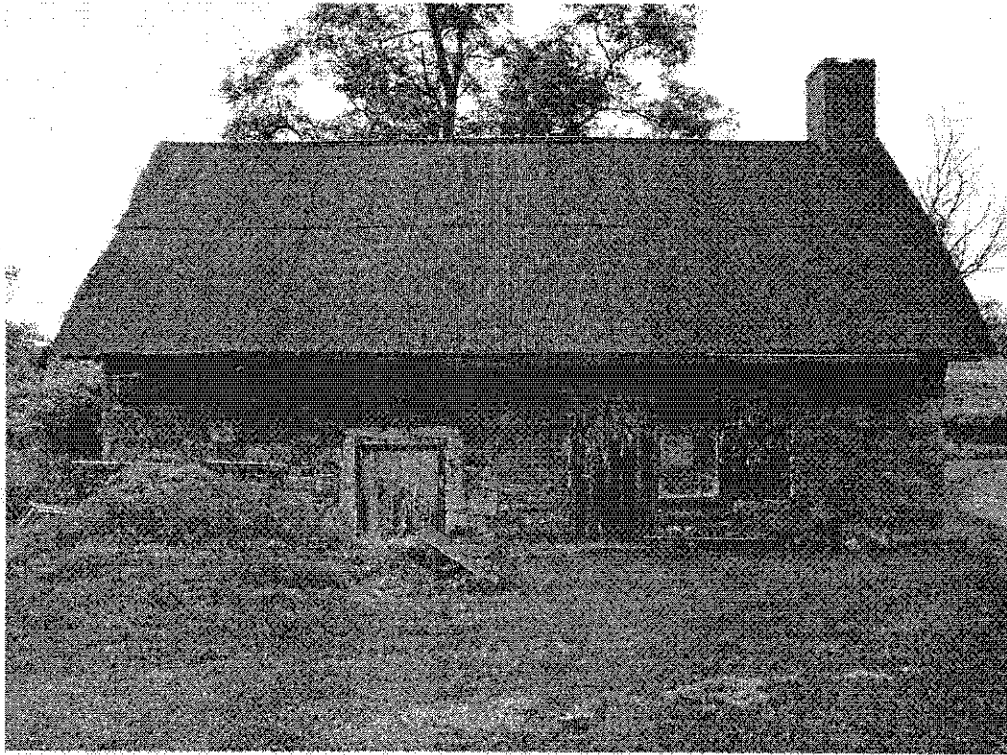
D. Supplemental Information

Please see the following figure pages for illustrations of the structure. All images were produced by the author for this report.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The written report was donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey by Antietam National Battlefield to accompany the graphic documentation of the Roulette Farm Group already in the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey (HABS/HAER/HALS) collection at the Library of Congress. Keven Walker prepared the report in 2005.

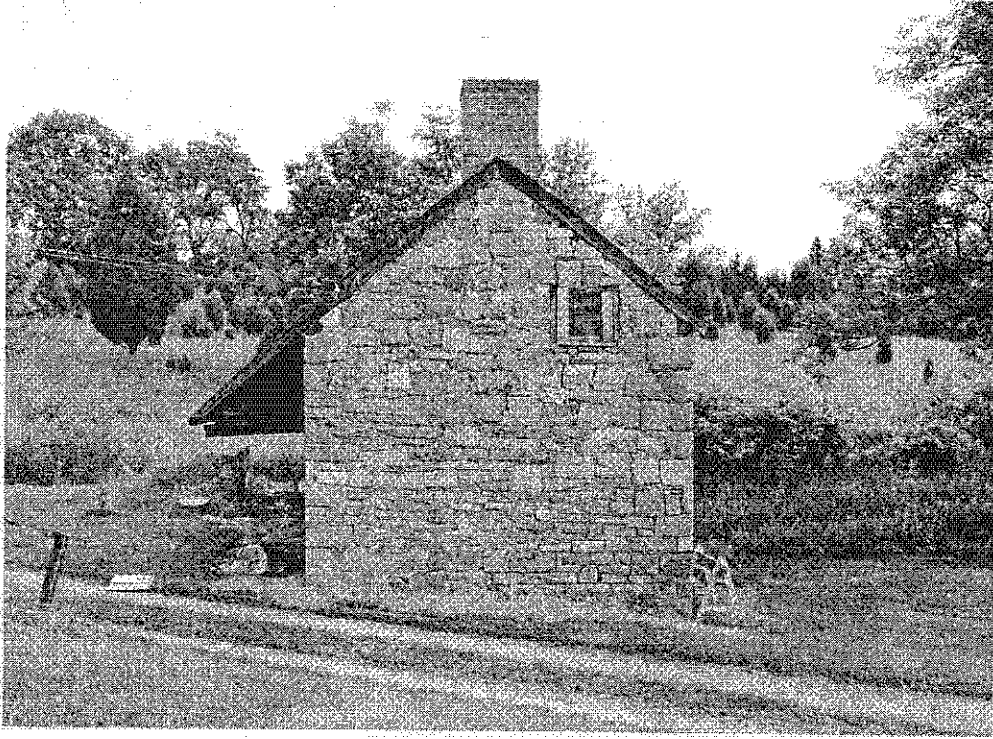
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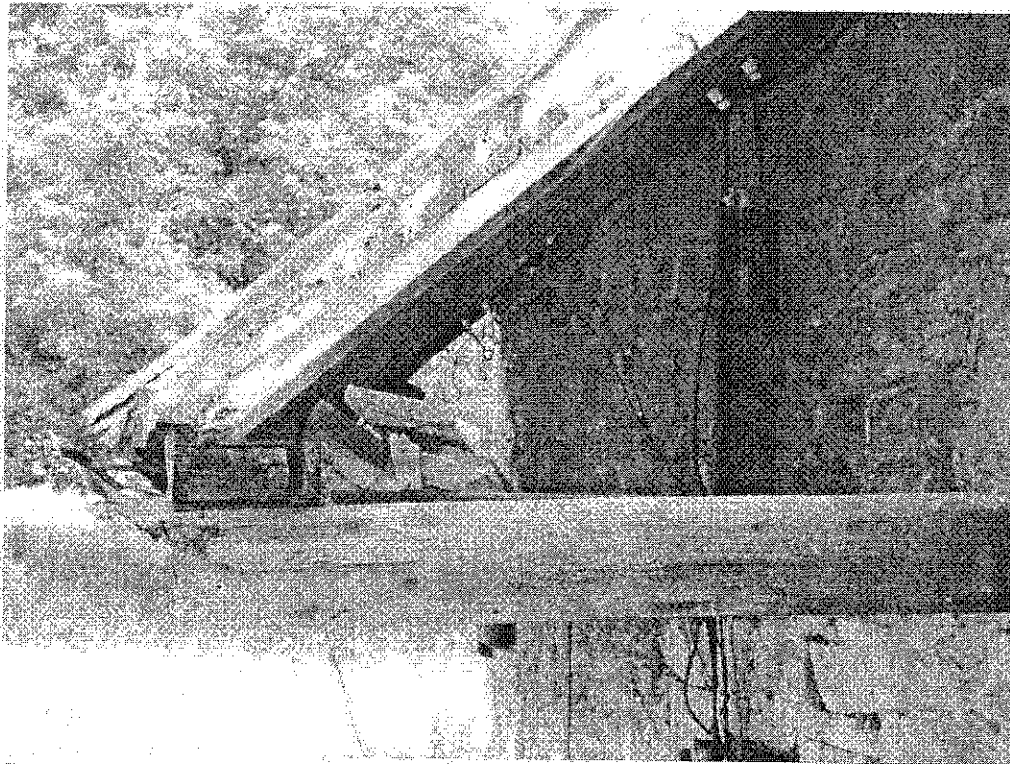
1. West Facade



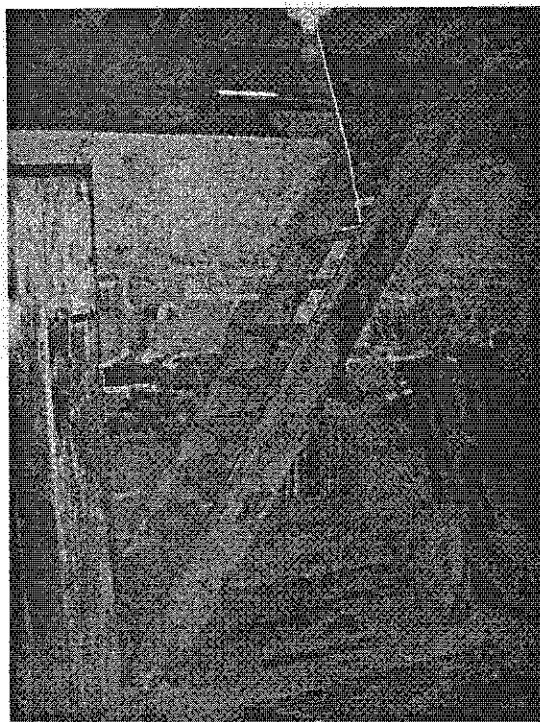
2. East Facade



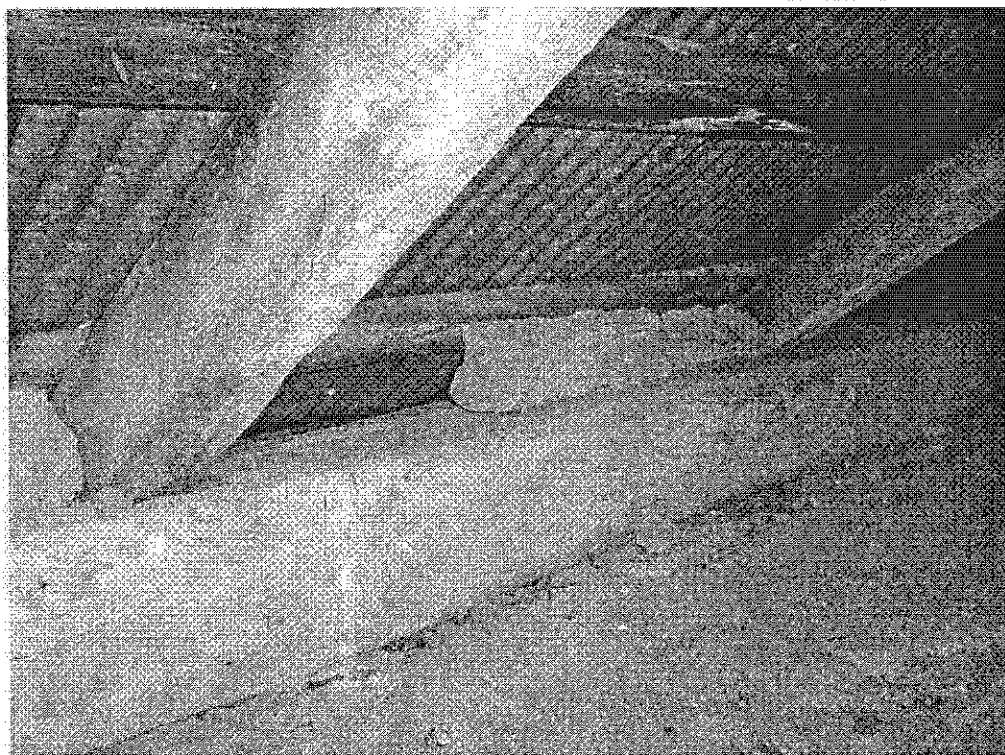
3. South Facade



4. Detail of Cantilevered Roof



5. Interior of South room, first story; showing stairway and window opening into the north room of the structure



6. Detail of top plate and rafters. Note the remains of original chinking

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

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